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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:
Let us pray.

Give heed, mighty God, to our prayers and hear our petitions. You are a God of justice who always does what is right. You have examined our hearts. You know our motives. Continue to guide our Senators. Empower them to follow You faithfully, to seek Your will, and to find their peace through fellowship with You. May they trust

You for safety, finding their highest fulfillment in knowing they are doing Your will. When everything seems to fall apart, remind them that in everything, You are working for the good of those who love You. Lord, help them to discover security in Your promises and joy in serving You.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

NOTICE

If the 111th Congress, 2d Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 23, 2010, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 111th Congress, 2d Session, will be published on Wednesday, December 29, 2010, in order to permit Members to revise and extend their remarks.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-59 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Wednesday, December 29. The final issue will be dated Wednesday, December 29, 2010, and will be delivered on Thursday, December 30, 2010.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at "Record@Sec.Senate.gov".

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman*.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Mrs. SHAHEEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will begin the final stage of our consideration of the House message with respect to H.R. 4853, which is the tax bill. Postclosure time will expire tonight at 12:30 a.m.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 today for weekly caucus luncheons. We will also have a number of Senators organized today to give their final speeches. We look forward to hearing from Senator BOND at 11:30 today to deliver his farewell speech, Senator JUDD GREGG will deliver his farewell speech at 2:15 p.m., and Senator HARKIN will be speaking at 3:15 p.m. for up to 45 minutes. Senator KIRK will deliver his maiden speech at 5 p.m. today.

Senators will be notified when any votes are scheduled. I have spoken to the Republican leader, and we are going to try to work this out so we don't have to be in until 12:30 and so we can move to other matters. We will keep Senators advised as to what the exact schedule will be.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2010

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message with respect to H.R. 4853, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment with an amendment to H.R. 4853, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorization for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Reid/McConnell modified amendment No. 4753 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment), in the nature of a substitute.

Reid amendment No. 4754 (to amendment No. 4753), to change the enactment date.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. We are not in a quorum call, are we?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. No.

Mr. REID. The Republican leader is on his way and has an important speech to give, so if everyone will just be calm while he delivers his speech.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING RICHARD HOLBROOKE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday America lost one of the most talented and dedicated diplomats it has ever produced. Richard Holbrooke began his diplomatic service several decades ago as a young foreign service officer in Vietnam. The storied career that followed spanned the globe and will remain an integral part of the diplomatic history of our Nation.

Dick Holbrooke will always be remembered for pursuing the hardest missions, whether negotiating the Dayton Accords which helped end the war in Bosnia or his immensely difficult final assignment as Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. Ambassador Holbrooke doggedly pursued what in his view best enhanced the diplomacy and national security objectives of our Nation. We honor his legacy of service to America's foreign policy interests by continuing his efforts to help Afghanistan deny the Taliban a return to power and to disrupt, defeat, and dismantle al-Qaida.

I might just add, I remember running into Dick at the White House a couple of weeks ago. He never missed an opportunity to be selling what he was doing. So he sidled up to me and in his usual aggressive way began to discuss his current mission in Afghanistan. He was a dedicated public servant, and we will all miss him greatly.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

GEORGE VOINOVICH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH who has served this Chamber and the people of Ohio with honor over the past 12 years after an already long career as a devoted public servant. GEORGE has served in the Ohio statehouse, as Ohio's Lieutenant Governor, as the mayor of Cleveland, as Governor of Ohio, and as a U.S. Senator. That is quite a record of accomplishment. When GEORGE walks out of the Chamber for the last time, he will have served 44 years in public service.

Yet in a career that has taken him from Cleveland to Columbus to Washington and around the world, GEORGE has always made time for his family, and no one was surprised when in January 2009 he announced that he planned to retire at the end of this year in order to spend more time with Janet.

GEORGE and Janet have been married for nearly half a century and they have seen a lot together. GEORGE grew up in the same working class neighborhood in Cleveland where he and Janet still call home today. He attended Collinwood High School, Ohio Univer-

sity, and Ohio State University for law school. After practicing law for several years in Cleveland, he began his political career in 1963 as an assistant attorney general of Ohio. Three years later, at the tender age of 30, GEORGE was elected to the Ohio statehouse.

The 1970s was a period of economic turmoil for many American cities, and Cleveland was no exception. In 1978, Cleveland became the first American city since the 1930s to file for bankruptcy, and GEORGE, who was serving as the State's Lieutenant Governor at the time, decided he needed to do something to help his hometown.

Mounting a challenge to the Democratic incumbent, DENNIS KUCINICH, GEORGE overcame tough odds and won the race. Determined to bring the city around and bring Cleveland out of the economic ditch, GEORGE organized a series of coalitions and public-private partnerships to bring Cleveland back from the brink. More importantly, I think GEORGE would tell us he helped restore confidence and pride to the city.

His motto was "Together, We Can Do It." And they did. He went on to serve as mayor for an entire decade and helped close an ugly chapter in Cleveland's history. It was a remarkable feat. Once called the "buckle of the rust belt" and the butt of a lot of late night television jokes, Cleveland underwent a renaissance under GEORGE's leadership. It paid down a \$110 million debt, added thousands of jobs, brought new development and businesses downtown, and saw struggling sports franchises transformed into contenders.

For GEORGE, it was never about him. He would never take full credit for the growth and prosperity Cleveland enjoyed or the fact that he was named one of the Nation's top mayors. It was always about the people of Cleveland working together to make the city they knew and loved great again.

GEORGE's outstanding work as mayor helped him win the Governor's Mansion in 1990 where he served two terms. He faced a fiscal mess in Columbus, too, and worked hard to rein in spending. One of his signature achievements as Governor was education reform, and in particular the Cleveland school voucher program which provided thousands of low-income students with the opportunity for a better education and ultimately greater opportunities in life. But his record of success as Governor was deep and far-reaching. He helped restore Ohio's economy, balanced its budget, and saw unemployment hit a 25-year low. For a job well done, the voters of Ohio reelected GEORGE to a second term as Governor in 1994 with a remarkable 72 percent of the vote.

Blocked by term limits from running again for Governor, GEORGE ran for the U.S. Senate in 1998. He took the values that earned him so much success in Columbus and Cleveland to Washington. As a Senator, he has been at the forefront of numerous important national